

Advertisements.

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is the safest and best cure for Prickly Heat, it affords instant relief, and will be found useful in allaying all irritation of the skin whether arising from acidity or caused by the bites and stings of insects. It is also a useful Toilet Article for the complexion.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

Hongkong, 11th July, 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1888.

THE SUNDAY LABOUR question as far as it relates to Hongkong has at present reached such a point that more careful attention and serious examination of the matter seems imperative. It is not alone that the Seamen's Chaplain at this port is agitating the matter, but the *Singapore Free Press* has taken upon itself to settle it in a most arbitrary and decisive manner, and advances some arguments against it in a peculiar style that, to some minds, would seem conclusive. But the truth is, that a more thorough and critical study of these arguments themselves suggests their own refutation. A summary of the subject as presented by the Seamen's Chaplain in Hongkong is given by the *Free Press* in these words: "While the desirability of the Chaplain's object will be everywhere admitted; the subject can scarcely be treated otherwise than under conditions of expediency." This is precisely the fact of the matter, but the conclusions to be drawn from the arguments that may be advanced, in support of this proposition invariably tend to the opposite extreme to that drawn by the writer of the article spoken of. All that can be brought up in favour of abandoning the effort to obtain the enforcement of restrictions on Sunday labour in this port is the reply of the Chamber of Commerce, whose Committee profess to be unable to support any legislation which should have for its object the compulsory cessation of Sunday work in Harbour. And this, we venture to think, is a very thin, one-sided, and totally inefficient argument to rely upon. The question goes far deeper than the mere matter of an opinion of the Chamber of Commerce upon it. We do not intend to touch upon the religious aspect of the matter at all, but limit ourselves to the mere "expediency" point of view.

Despite the many conflicting interests involved, and the fact that any restriction would be unfair unless it were in the nature of an unyielding law applicable to all classes and nationalities of vessels, there is one argument that seems to have been left out of consideration. The national feeling of an Englishman survives under all and every condition. It is not alone the spirit of Scott's grand and noble poem, so familiar to us all, "Breathes there a man with soul so dead," but there is the sense of a national superiority over the countries and peoples of the East and the earnest desire for the good of the nation or country where Britain's commerce is a most potent factor in its advancement, that ought, at least, to have due consideration. And the hearing of this upon the question of Sunday work in Hongkong is very easily shown. British interests, British rule, British civilization, and British customs are fairly at stake in the matter. It resolves itself into the simple proposition whether Chinese customs and laws shall override all British custom and law, that Britons shall doff their nationality—become so unlike themselves as to yield as a conquered people—to those they have conquered by force of arms and by innate superiority, and who, in turn, have compelled their conquerors to succumb to them by forcing them, through the "expediency" of gain and greed alone, to adopt their customs, manners and laws. There is no doubt of the "expediency" of yielding to a mere matter of a national custom which does not interfere with the physical, moral and mental well-being of Britons, on the principle of "throwing a sprat to catch a mackerel" but in this case the matter is reversed. It is, in absolute fact, the throwing away of a mackerel to catch a sprat. The commercial gain by the unrestricted Sunday labour, is out of all comparison with the evil which it works in depriving Britons of a legacy which for

years, nay centuries, has been their indubitable right, and the lowering of the national character by its wrongful adaptation to heathen customs and manners.

THE greatest misfortune which can happen to a public body is to be afflicted with a talking man, a man who is perpetually upon his feet, attacking, impeaching, urging, spouting; who holds the uneasy chairman with his glittering eye, and never cries "enough." Our Sanitary Board seems in a fair way to be swamped by a flood of eloquence. The brief report of yesterday's proceedings, which appears in another column, conveys but a faint idea of the long discussions which took place. We must credit "the gallant Champion," as a contemporary styles Mr. FRANCIS, with the best intentions in spending so much of his valuable time and eloquence on the undoubtedly important questions of drains, and wells, and bye-laws, but good intentions pave a much-traversed road, and matters, like the yokel who was sampling sherry, "get no forrader." Mr. FRANCIS apparently would like to constitute himself the Sanitary Board, with Dr. Ho Kai as assistant, and the rest of the members as a Committee of Ways and Means. There is a right way of doing everything, and it is quite irregular to court the publicity of the Press by making orotund comments and suggestions about bye-laws or reports at the Board meeting instead of in committee, when they are dealt with categorically. And Mr. FRANCIS knows it. What the public want to see is results—talk is cheap. What is there to show for the half-dozen meetings which the new Board has held so far? Except for the few "communications" which have been read or written the Board had done practically nothing but cackle as to whether Sections A B C were not more pressing than X Y Z. The obstructive policy which Mr. FRANCIS is so consistently carrying out, as he announced his intention of doing on the day of election, is becoming wearisome. Better the little injustice which he seems to fear will result from the hasty adoption of rules than the deadlock which his policy of "serious consideration and great care" has created. Mr. FRANCIS, like Falstaff, is "a good old m.h. sir, he will be talking," but we need our Colonial Surgeon and Captain Superintendent of Police to do something else besides perpetually pulling him up.

GRAMS.

(Ruter.)

AFFAIRS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

LONDON, July 18th.

Dinizulu is suing for peace.

AMERICA.

A dynamite plot has been discovered to assassinate the Judges of Chicago who pronounced sentence upon the anarchists.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

We would remind our readers of the performance to be given by Mr. Woodyear's popular Circus at Bowington to-night.

It is said that the Princess of Wales indulges in milk-baths. Now, ladies, follow a good example and give the Dairy Farm a boom.

The tea shipped per *Parthia* which left Yokohama on the 24th June, were delivered in New York on the 18th inst. say in 24 days.

ORDERS have been received at Sheerness naval barracks directing accommodation to be immediately prepared for 800 seamen, who are to be drafted into the first reserve ship on the mobilization of the navy.

A 'POOR SHAREHOLDER' writes us to ask why the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company does not follow the good example set by the General Manager of the local Ice Company, of declaring a dividend? As both these Companies have not yet held their half-yearly meetings, we think our correspondent's question is rather premature.

THIS morning Mr. Sercombe Smith fined two junkmen ten dollars each for anchoring their craft in the central fairway of the harbour on the 19th inst. We are glad to see the magistrates are inflicting fines on these defaulters somewhat more commensurate with the nature of the offence than was at one time customary. For an offence of this nature a fine of \$25, or six weeks in gaol—which was the usual thing—was far too heavy in the absence of any proved contumacy, refusal to shift, or resistance to police authority.

THE precocity of American children is notorious. The following is characteristic—Very juvenile young American lady, aged four, resolute in disposition, and having unfortunately picked up some strong phrases from the children of the old family black cook, exhibits a marked disinclination to acquire the elements of learning. Scener The breakfast-table. Father: "Slasy."—"Yes, papa."—You must learn your letters, my darling!—"No, papa."—"But you really must, my child."—"I shan't, papa."—Father, laying down his knife and fork deliberately on each side of his plate, and looking severely at the young lady, says, slowly and firmly, "Slasy, I tell you, you shall learn your letters."—Slasy, also laying down her knife and fork in close imitation of her father, and looking defiantly across the table, deliberately replies, "No, papa, I'm damnd. If I do!" Collapse of the father, horror of the mother.

THIS morning Mr. Sercombe Smith fined a Chinese tailor \$25 for being found in possession of six tael of prepared opium; half the fine to be given to the informer who put the excise men on the track of the defendant.

THE Government Astronomer send us the following weather report to-day:—The barometer has fallen along the south-east coast of China. The centre of the typhoon, which is very small, appears to be situated north-west of "anon."

THE proprietor of a North Queensland journal having put up for Parliament his local rival mentions the fact. In the process of mentioning the candidature, he courteously alludes to the candidate's paper as the Champion Turncoat, the Judas Oracle, the Great Mormon Liar, the Sodom and Gomorrah Evangelist, and the Brigham Young Advocate, and adds that it doesn't want to create ill-feeling. What it does want to create is not mentioned.

A HIGHLY-POPULAR young man lately employed in a large shipping office on the Praya is, in the phraseology of the "agony column," earnestly desired to return. Yesterday, in a fit of absent-mindedness, he stepped into a sampan with a "Glassy" smile, went off to a steamer, and was unfortunately carried away to San Francisco. He wrote flowing, easy hand, and his autographs are readily procurable at any of the hotels, or from most respectable tradesmen. The duet which he and his six months' bride sang as the *City of Sydney* steamed away, "Isle of beauty, fare thee well" will awaken a good many responsive chords in the breasts of those of his shop-keeping friends to whom he was so dear.

News of the World reports the following occurrence in Paris:—A man named Bronchot, who kept a winchshop in that city, was recently tried for having killed a man under peculiar circumstances. It appears that Madame Bronchot is a *belle limonadiere*, whose beauty attracted numerous customers to her husband's zinc-counter. One of these customers, an ill-fated Adonis of the quartier, had a weakness for the *belle limonadiere*, and one day, thinking that the eye of the husband was not upon him, he ventured to go behind the counter and to kiss her. M. Bronchot was, however, at hand, and in the twinkling of an eye he had his revolver out, and firing it, sent a bullet whizzing through the brain of the Adonis, who fell dead. Bronchot was acquitted with flying colours, the members of the jury taking his part to a man.

CHAN LUK, aged 35, was this morning charged before Mr. Sercombe Smith with entering a house No. 38, Lyndhurst Terrace, and stealing clothing and other property of one Ping San, a clerk. Defendant, who was employed on the Pacific mail office, said the property was his, he missed it on the night of the 9th inst. A pawnbroker gave evidence to prove that defendant brought the things to his shop on 6th inst. and tried to get money advanced on them; he said he belonged to a Chinese junk. Finally some money was advanced, and last night (19th inst) defendant came to redeem them. As some communication had been had with the police, a constable was sent for and the accused given in charge. In answer to the court defendant denied pawning the clothes—he found the pawn tickets in the street, had no occupation, and borrowed a little money occasionally from some junks. Having no witnesses to support his statement he was sent to gaol with hard labour for three months.

A CORRESPONDENT gives a London exchange a doleful account of a visit which he had just paid to the monastery of the *Grande Chartreuse*. He and two companions were greeted with damp beds, followed—so he writes—by *maigre* soup, tinned fish, bread and eggs, and sour wine. After their tiring journey, they not unnaturally retired somewhat early to bed, where it is to be presumed they enjoyed a first sleep; but if their expectations were that this sleep was to be of long duration, they were disappointed. Just at midnight the unfortunate travellers were compelled, *volentes volentes*, to get out of their damp sheets in order to attend the midnight mass, at which the solitary illumination was the tiny lamp carried by each monk. The most trying part of the whole experience seems to have been the dreary three hours' performance which followed, and which may be realised by the fact that every visitor was compelled to listen from midnight until three next morning to a litany and songs. As if to crown the misery of the visit, the next day proved to be a fast day, when even coffee was denied to the visitors, who had for repast 'dry bread and a tiny glass of chaitreusa.

AT the recent French race the Champs Elysees were all animation. Whole families with their stock of provisions installed themselves under the trees in the Bois de Boulogne, near the race-course. The stands and the place set aside for the favoured visitors in front of the Grand Stand were filled beyond endurance. It was a crush of parasols and dresses of every colour and every taste. President Carnot was sitting quietly in his stand with Madame Carnot, when the victor, the French horse Stuart, was coming back in front of the Grand Stand. The crowd, in spite of the efforts of the police, suddenly invaded the course in front of the stands, and commenced a demonstration in honour of the President of the Republic, saluting him with enthusiastic cries of "Vive la France! Vive le President!" Evidently M. Carnot was surprised by this unexpected explosion. To hear a crowd of 100,000 persons cheering for France and the President of the Republic was very remarkable. M. Carnot, looking pale, rose with evident emotion and replied by salutations to the enthusiastic applause of the crowd. So encouraged, the multitude shouted more loudly than ever, waving hats and handkerchiefs and applauding frantically. The demonstration spread to the outside crowd beyond the course to the ground under the trees farthest from the stands. It was continued for several minutes, and the crowd did not draw back until the time for the next race had come.

REYNOLDS learns that the second proviso of Sir Arthur Havelock's agreement with the New Republic reads, "Boers to give up all claims to Zululand." This was agreed to, providing the Zulus acquiesced, but the acceptance of this condition has not yet been notified.

SEVEN members of the great unwashed community were this morning charged before Mr. Sercombe Smith with gambling at No. 6 Leung Fung Lane, on the 19th inst. The first and second defendants were sent to gaol for six weeks with hard labour, and the rest for three days.

BETWEEN October 14th last year and May 28th, 1,313 tons of quartz have been crushed at Mount Morgan Gold Mines, North Wales, which have yielded an average of over three ounces of gold to the ton. During the past fortnight there has, it is stated, been a repeated average of eight ounces to the ton.

The largest timber-yard fire which has occurred in South London for several years, says an exchange, broke out on the afternoon of the 19th ult. in the extensive premises of Messrs. Bonsall and Sons, wholesale timber merchants, Hill-street, Peckham. There was no delay in sending on all the steamers from the nearest fire-stations. Despite the collection of this strong force at the scene, a fierce fire raged. The whole timber-yard, 30 yards long and 20 yards wide, blazed with great strength, and the wind soon caused the stores and stables to become ignited. Nothing could save these premises. Ten steamers were set to work all round the scene of the conflagration, and an excellent supply of water was obtained, but the continued pumping of the engines seemed for a long while to have not the slightest effect. The stock of timber burnt to a white heat, and at last, in spite of efforts of the brigade, the mischief spread over the wall to the adjoining great timber-yard of Mr. J. Hathway. This yard was as large as the first, and contained a vast stock of hard and soft wood. This flared furiously for a long time, and two adjoining brick and timber buildings, used as workshops, engine-house, and boiler-house, were gutted. It was not until after dark that the task of extinction was accomplished, and then the two great yards had been virtually destroyed.

APPROX of the King of Sweden's Continental journey, a Rome correspondent sends to *Vanity Fair* the following episode of His Majesty's visit to the Vatican. Before entering the chamber of His Holiness, His Majesty was informed by the Pope's Grand Chamberlain that it was customary for Sovereigns to kiss the hand of His Holiness on entering the presence chamber, an untimely piece of advice received by King Oscar with a smile. On entering the room, the Pope came forward, holding out his hand to be kissed, when—judge of the surprise of everyone present, and not the least of the Pope—King Oscar embraced His Holiness, and kissed him on both cheeks! For a few seconds the Pope was unable to speak from surprise, but King Oscar appeared perfectly unconcerned, and soon started a conversation. There was, however, one more "turn" in store for His Holiness; as, on the King's departure, the former expressed the hope that His Majesty would take his Catholic subjects under his special care. King Oscar replied that he was unable to favour any one particular creed in his country. Thus he had always acted, and would continue to act. However, His Holiness might be sure of perfect liberty for the Catholic subjects of the Swedish Crown. And, to crown all, His Majesty left the Vatican without calling upon Monsignor Rampolli, the Pope's Secretary of State. It may, by the bye, be of interest to add that no Catholic Prince is received by the Pope who calls first at the Quirinal; but King Oscar being a Protestant Sovereign, the case was different. However, it is said that, had His Majesty driven to the Vatican in one of the King of Italy's carriages, the Pope would have refused to receive him.

THE high prices given a few weeks ago at home for some of the pictures of Mr. Bolckow, the rich iron master, had by no means the same features of extravagance about them as was exhibited during the "tulip mania," which during 1634 to 1737 took possession of the minds of hundreds of rich people in England and Holland, and developed stronger traits of temporary imbecility than ever did the South Sea bubble speculations. For a tulip root, as much as £250 was given, and in one case as much as 4,500 florins together with a new carriage, two grey horses, and a complete set of harness. In the case of the pictures, however, there was this to recommend the high prices—they were purchased, in a great measure, by dealers who intended to exhibit them in the United States, and thus quadruple the money first laid out. The passion also for remarkable relics has had its day in England before the present. In 1816 a tooth of Sir Isaac Newton was purchased for £750 by the Duke of Grafton, who had it set in a ring. The harp of Brian Boru, who was killed in 1014 at the battle of Clontarf, was sold in 1780 for £500. It had seen many changes of ownership before it passed into the hands of the first Earl of Clanricarde, in whose family it remained till the opening of the present century, when it found its way to Trinity College, Dublin, where it now is. It is 32 inches high, of good workmanship, the sounding board is of English oak and the upper arm capped with silver. Brian, according to history, led the harp, with his regalia, to his son Donough, but he, having killed one of his brothers with a blow from a shillelagh, had to leave the country. He went to Rome, and there sold the harp and the Irish regalia to a Jewish banker. The two pens used in signing the treaty of Amiens were sold in 1825 for £500. Voltaire's cane, felled by Charles XII at the battle of Poltava, sold in 1825 for £80,000 francs. The prayer book which Napoleon of England used on the scaffold was sold in 1827 for £150. The hat worn by Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo was first, in 1815, brought to auction, in 1835, 1850 francs. Madame Tussaud finally bought it for £160. The four pens used in Paris for signing the treaty of peace with Russia after the Crimean war, were presented to the Empress Eugenie, but were sold by Charles X at the battle of Poltava, sold in 1825 for £80,000 francs. The prayer book which Napoleon of England used on the scaffold was sold in 1827 for £150. The hat worn by Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo was first, in 1815, brought to auction, in 1835, 1850 francs. Madame Tussaud finally bought it for £160. 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